

## ***FY 2003 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN***

### **INTRODUCTION**

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The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) consolidated the planning and application process of four HUD funded grant programs in 1995. The purpose was to coordinate program requirements and simplify the process of requesting and obtaining federal funds. The City of Cambridge receives three of those grants, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnership Program Grant (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG).

The City submitted its Five-Year Consolidated Plan in May 2000. The time frame of the plan is July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2005. It describes the City's plan to create a viable urban community which offers decent affordable housing, a suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities especially for low and moderate income persons. The activities the City will undertake to achieve its stated objectives are detailed in this document. The consolidated planning process is intended to achieve the following:

- to promote citizen participation in the development of local priority needs benefiting low and moderate income persons;
- to develop a one-year action plan that will be the basis for assessment of performance; and
- to consult with public and private agencies on identifying needs and appropriate actions required to address the needs.

The purpose of the annual One-Year Action Plan is to update the Five-Year Consolidated Plan and to provide the City with a basis for assessment through the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPERs). The One-Year Action Plan describes the resources expected to be available in the coming program year from Federal, non-Federal and private sources. It includes a description of the activities that will be undertaken to meet the stated objectives in the Five-Year Consolidated Plan, including those designed to meet homelessness and other special needs. The Action Plan also describe actions to be undertaken to address obstacles in meeting the needs of the under-served, removing barriers, and enhancing coordination in the community.

The Community Development Department's CDBG division is working with HUD to create a proposed Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy (NRS). The aim of the NRS is to stabilize targeted areas of the City by affording a greater flexibility in the utilization of CDBG funds. The area is centered on the Central Square district, and radiates out to include portions of the Riverside, Cambridgeport, Area Four, East Cambridge and Wellington / Harrington Neighborhoods. This area represents Cambridge's highest population of low and moderate-income individuals. The NRS will allow the City's Housing and Economic Development divisions to treat this area as a cohesively defined 'area of need' as it exists in relation to the whole of Cambridge, and will provide for targeted efforts to serve this population.

The Community Development Department has worked closely with the Department of Human Services in the development of the One-Year Action Plan. Collaboration also included consultation with the City Manager's Office, the Cambridge Housing Authority, the Cambridge Historical Commission, the Cambridge Commission for Persons with Disabilities, the Cambridge Human Rights Commission, the Human Service Commission, the Cambridge Public Health Commission, Cambridge and Somerville Cooperative Apartment Program, Just A Start Corporation, Homeowner's Rehab, Inc., and homeless and special needs providers.

In addition to working with the above-mentioned City departments, the Community Development Department held a public hearing on February 13, 2002 in the Ackerman Room located at Cambridge City Hall. Public notices about the hearing were placed in the Cambridge edition of the TAB and the Cambridge Chronicle. In addition, notices announcing the public hearing were sent to City officials, City departments, neighborhood groups, and various nonprofit agencies located throughout the City. The Department of Human Services also held an additional public hearing on January 30, 2002 at the Cambridge Senior Center for which they placed notices in the Cambridge Edition of the TAB. The comments from these hearing are in the Attachments.

The public comment period on the draft of the One-Year Action Plan was from April 12 through May 10, 2002. The second public hearing to discuss the drafted Plan was held on April 16, 2002 in the Ackerman Room at Cambridge City Hall. Public notices about this hearing were placed in the Cambridge Chronicle and Cambridge edition of the TAB. Upon completion notices announcing the availability of the One-Year Action Plan was sent to City officials, City departments, neighborhood groups and various nonprofit agencies located throughout the City. Copies of the draft Plan were made available at the City Clerk's Office in Cambridge City Hall, the Cambridge Housing Authority, the Community Development Department and the Cambridge Public Library, as well as all six-branch libraries.